

This Weekend's Mass arrangements:

Saturday 3rd February:

6.00pm at St. Michael's Church

Sunday 4th February:

9.00am at St. Michael's Church – **Children's Liturgy!**

Sunday 4th January:

11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

Dear All,

It is good to know that Father Paul Leonard has been able to return to Saint Joseph's Church, albeit on light duties, following his being unwell since before Christmas. Please continue to keep him in your prayers as he continues to recuperate, especially as the season of Lent fast approaches, and that he is given time to do so.

As per this week's Diocesan e-news, you may be aware that Father Phillip Harris, who had to take sick leave from his care of Hook Parish last year, is now in good health & Bishop Philip has appointed him to take charge of Ascot Parish.

Father John Chadwick, alongside other duties, continues to have – to the extent possible - the care of the Hook community.

Deacon Anthony Cairns, who many of you will remember from his ministry in Tadley, and his wife Diana, are also unwell.

Please keep the above & indeed all our clergy and deacons in your prayers.

Ash Wednesday

This begins Lent and is kept this year on 14th February as a Day of Fasting and Abstinence, calling us to enter into Christ's journey to Death and Resurrection.

Fasting: the law of fasting binds those who have attained their "age of majority" (normally 18 years) until the beginning of their 60th year. One is allowed only one full meal during the day, and two "collations" (a snack, such as a slice of toast for example). Coffee, tea or water may be taken as necessary, and those who are unable to fast for serious reasons of health are not bound by the fast. Many over 60 years may continue to fast if they wish to do so. The second day of fasting in Lent is Good Friday.

Abstinence: as determined by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, every Friday of the year (excepting Solemnities and Holy Days of Obligation) obliges those of 14 years not to eat meat in remembrance of the Death of the Lord. Both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence in Lent.

Priests and parents are to ensure that even those who, by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are taught the true meaning of penance, of turning away from sin. Lent is a very good time to do this, especially by example. Although Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation, it is a Day of Devotion, linked closely to the giving of Ashes, reminding us that we are dust, and because of sin will die, in hope of Resurrection.

Ash Wednesday Masses in the Parish (14th February)

11:00 am - Saint Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

7:00 pm - Saint Michael's Church, Tadley

Friday Stations of the Cross and Mass

The Stations will begin at 7:00 pm in Saint Michael's Church, followed by Mass, on the Fridays of Lent.

CAFOD (voluntary) Fast Day

This takes place on Friday 23rd February and monies raised by your sacrifices of food or some pleasure will be collected on the weekend of 24th/25th February

No Baptisms during Lent

If you require a Baptism after Lent, please note that a month's notice is needed to arrange one with the Priest.

Forthcoming 1st Anniversaries of Death

1. The Saturday and Sunday Masses on 3rd/4th February at Tadley will be celebrated for the repose of Jim Biltcliffe.
2. The Sunday Mass on 25th February at 9:00 am in Tadley will be celebrated for the repose of Helen Warner.

Walsingham Pilgrimage

A Pilgrimage is being proposed from Basingstoke to The Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady, Walsingham on 31st May – 1st June 2024. Approximate cost £250 to include coach, dinner, bed & breakfast.

A meeting is to be held on Saturday 17th February 11am at St Bede's Church, Large Meeting Room to discuss details.

For further information and to register your interest contact Susan Beard

email ssusanbeard@gmail.com

Marriage Week 2024

Marriage Week is an annual celebration offering the opportunity to support and promote marriage and family life. It is celebrated this year from 7-14 February.

For resources, prayers, reflections, please see the website of the Bishop's Conference of England & Wales via this link:

[Marriage Week 2024 - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk)

Fast Day

The Good Counsel Network have asked us to advertise their forthcoming Fast Day:

On Saturday 10th February, the Vigil of the Feast Our Lady of Lourdes, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

Family Comedy Night – “First Farewell Tour”

Comedian Steve Legg is coming to St. Paul’s Church on the Green, Saturday 24th February at 7.30pm, for an evening of family fun with tricks for all ages.

Tickets: £10 Adults & £5 Children.

Full details on the poster in St. Michael’s Church.

REMINDER: CTAT – Silchester Children’s Easter Holiday Club:

Serving as yet another fine example of Christian Unity in action here locally, this club will be running as follows:

Monday 8th April to Friday 12th April at Silchester Methodist Hall

For more details & to obtain a registration form please email: gillmlawson@icloud.com

Diocesan Vacancies

Data Protection Lead, Portsmouth - Currently there is no closing date

Administrator (Programmes & Governance), Portsmouth - Currently there is no closing date

Health & Safety Officer, Portsmouth – Currently there is no closing date

For these & other vacancies visit: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

Further reading

Portsmouth Diocese news items:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/>

Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales news items:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/>

Caritas Portsmouth Newsletter:

<https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk/news-events/>

Enjoy your weekend!

Father Patrick.

Fr. Patrick Tansey

Parish Priest

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St Oswald’s Church, Burghfield Common

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